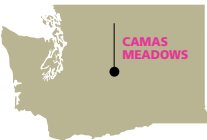




A mosaic of open meadows and forested groves forms an irreplaceable native habitat.



Research, Education and Public Use Activities

Natural Area Preserves managed by DNR have a high value for scientific and educational purposes. Two masters' thesis research projects have been conducted at the site on the endangered Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow. Volunteer activities, such as exotic species removal and endemic plant monitoring, are conducted annually. A fun summer-time activity on the NAP is the native plant and wildflower field trip led by DNR's plant ecologist.

Public use on the Preserve is limited due to the delicate nature of the landscape. Hiking is allowed on existing roads and trails. Please tread lightly on Camasland. Its vitality depends on your cooperation.

Please contact the DNR Southeast Region office to conduct research, volunteer or to plan educational activities.

Department of Natural Resources Natural Area Management Southeast Region

713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9341
Fax (509) 925-8522

Phone: (509) 925-8510



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve



Natural Area Preserves are incredibly valuable native systems that may be key to a healthy future for our state.

These preserves are islands of diversity. They hold invaluable information about native ecosystems that have existed for hundreds or maybe thousands of years. Research helps us understand the inter-relationships of the plants and animals within these ecosystems. This information helps us make wise and informed decisions for managing the natural areas, as well as the rest of the lands we manage.

We at DNR are pleased to be able to offer educational opportunities for students, young and old alike, for today and forever.

DOUG SUTHERLAND
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

FIELD PHOTO BY TOM DARK; BREWER'S BLACKBIRD © 2005 TOM GREER

Washington's Beautiful Landscape Preserved

Ten miles north of Blewett Pass is an area known as "Camasland." The area is named for the beautiful blue camas plants that can be viewed throughout the meadow from late May through early June. The discovery of two endemic plant species, the Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow (*Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*) and the Wenatchee larkspur (*Delphinium viridescens*) led The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to seek protection for the lush meadow.

In 1989, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program acquired the site from TNC and designated it as the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve (NAP). Today, more than 1,300 acres are protected at Camas Meadows NAP. It is part of a statewide system established to protect high quality examples of the state's native ecosystems, and rare or unique plant and animal communities — Washington's natural heritage.



▲ Brewer's
Blackbird
(*Euphagus*
cyanocephalus)

COVER AND BACK COVER PHOTOS BY KRISTINA PROSZEK. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER. DNR CPD JOB. 6/05



Wildlife

Camas Meadows NAP is home to a variety of wildlife species including: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*, left) and Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*, below). Large numbers of bird species, such as Western tanager (*Pirangula ludoviciana*, far right) nest and feed in the various habitats within the preserve.



► Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow (right, top) and Wenatchee larkspur (right).

TARA ZIMMERMAN



MARK SHEEHAN



Rare flowers bloom in Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve

The shallow basin and large, flat floor of the Preserve is covered with various grasses, dotted with aspen groves and surrounded by a mixed Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forest. Small forest openings and the perimeter of aspen groves in the NAP contain 75 percent of the global population of the Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow and 40 percent of the global population of the Wenatchee larkspur.

The only other populations of both plant species are found within roughly 15 miles of the Preserve. The checker-mallow produces light pink to magenta flowers in late June through early September and is listed as endangered by the state and federal governments. The Wenatchee larkspur produces yellowish to purple flowers from late June through September and is listed as a state threatened species and as a Species of Concern by the federal government. The tall agoseris (*Agoseris elata*, below), a state sensitive plant species, is also found on the Preserve. The tall agoseris resembles a large dandelion with bright yellow flowers that bloom from June through August.



◄ Camas Meadows NAP provides researchers with unique opportunities to study native organisms, ecological and physical processes, living and non-living ecosystem components and long-term ecological changes.



tall agoseris

LARGE FIELD AND WINTER SCENE PHOTOS BY KRISTINA PROSZEK; TALL AGOSERIS BY LOIS KEMP; BLUE CAMAS BY TOM DARK; WESTERN TANAGER BY DR. GLENN INGLES © CAL. ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

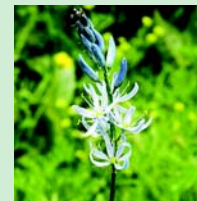


Geology and History Shape the Site

Geological and historic events have shaped the landscape of Camas Meadows. The Camasland Diabase, a unique geologic feature, formed the meadow found nestled in the steep and rugged Wenatchee Mountains. The diabase is 300 feet thick, made up of a sequence of thick sandstone beds separated by thin beds of gray silty shale, injected with basalt magma.

Native Americans gathered traditional food from the land, including the edible blue camas roots, which they still harvest today.

Camas Meadows has a long history of human use. Native Americans gathered traditional food from the land, including the edible blue camas roots, which they still harvest today. Beginning in the late 1800s through the 1930s, settlers and ranchers used portions of the land for livestock grazing. The meadow's large size is partly due to past timber harvests, grazing and farming.



▲ Blue Camas (*Camassia quamash*)